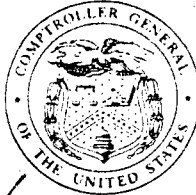


**DECISION**



*Alkm*  
*17743*  
**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

*[Untimely Protest of Department of Commerce Contract Award]*

FILE: B-202179

DATE: April 14, 1981

MATTER OF: Linguistic Systems, Inc.

**DIGEST:**

Protest alleging failure to include relevant specifications in solicitation and inclusion of unduly restrictive solicitation requirement, filed after closing date for receipt of proposals, is untimely and not for consideration on merits.

Linguistic Systems, Inc. (Linguistic), [protests the proposed award of a contract by the Department of Commerce] under solicitation No. SA81PURCO015. Linguistic [contends that the solicitation] which seeks Bulgarian translation and related audio-visual services, [fails to include relevant specifications and fails to justify restricting competition to the District of Columbia metropolitan area.]

Our Bid Protest Procedures require that [protests based on alleged improprieties in any type of solicitation which are apparent prior to bid opening or the closing date for receipt of initial proposals shall be filed prior to bid opening or the closing date.]  
4 C.F.R. § 20.2(b)(1) (1980).

Although the closing date for receipt of proposals for the instant solicitation was March 16, 1981, it was not until March 17, 1981, that [Linguistic's protest was filed in our Office]. Since the deficiencies complained of are apparent on the face of the solicitation, the protest had to be received prior to March 16, 1981, in order to be considered timely. DBA Systems, Inc., B-199752, August 22, 1980, 80-2 CPD 144.

Accordingly, [Linguistic's protest is untimely and will not be considered on the merits.]

*Harry R. Van Cleve*

Harry R. Van Cleve  
Acting General Counsel

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